
Community facilities play an important role in defining the community and shaping development. Several elements of the Vision relate directly to community facilities:

- Faribault has a sense of place. Community facilities help to define Faribault. In many cases, community facilities are keepers of Faribault's history and heritage.
- Faribault is a complete place. Municipal buildings, libraries, schools, churches, health care and a variety of other elements all form the mosaic of what residents want and need in the community.
- Faribault is a place to learn. Residents place value on the quality and variety of educational opportunities available in Faribault. Schools become focal points of the community.

This section of the Plan explores how community facilities affect future planning and development.

What are Community Facilities?

Community facilities house services and activities provided by government, non-profit or other similar entities. Planning for community facilities is important for several reasons:

- These facilities represent important community services.
- In Faribault, community facilities often are the locations of large employers.
- The facilities should be accessible to both residents and visitors.
- These facilities often represent significant elements of community heritage and identity.
- Community facilities may influence the pattern of traffic and adjacent land use.
- The future growth of Faribault may lead to the expansion of existing facilities and the need to build new facilities.

The Comprehensive Plan divides community facilities into government services, schools, and community services.

Government Services

In Faribault, government service facilities are operated by city, county and state governments.

City

Faribault City Hall is home to administrative services for the City. This structure is also part of the community's heritage. The City Hall was built in 1894 and restored to its current state in 1980. This facility is an important focus of community activity and anchor for the downtown area.

Public safety services operate out of several facilities. The City and Rice County jointly operate the Law Enforcement Center and Pearl Street 911 Communications Center. The Fire/Code Division operates out of a single facility located at 122 NW 2nd Street.

The Public Works Department is located in facilities at 601 1st Avenue NE. An important part of this facility is fleet maintenance. The maintenance and repair of all municipal vehicles (except fire) are performed at this location.

Facility needs are an issue for police, fire and public works services. Adequate facilities is an essential element of providing quality public services. Assessing the needs for updated and expanded operating facilities is an important part of planning for the future of Faribault.

Facilities needs will be affected by growth. Growth will add streets and buildings to the patrol area. As the City hires new police officers and support staff, additional facilities may be needed. The outward growth of the community expands the property within the service area of the Fire Department. As this expansion occurs, it will be important to monitor response times from a single fire station. Continued growth could require the construction of a second station.

Faribault operates and maintains a municipal airport. The airport includes a 4,254 foot main runway, grass-surfaced crosswind runway, terminal buildings, and hangars. The Airport Commission is in the process of studying the need to pave or eliminate the crosswind runway. This decision will influence future use of the facility and planning for adjacent land uses.

County

As the County seat, Faribault is the home of many county facilities. Rice County facilities located in Faribault include:

- Courthouse
- Government Service Buildings
- Law Enforcement/Jail/Community Corrections
- Highway Department

With the exception of the Highway Department, County facilities are located in the Downtown/4th Street corridor area. This location keeps the benefits from the development of support services and visitor traffic concentrated in this area.

These facilities are an important "attraction" for Faribault. County services bring people into the community, keeping Faribault a focal point of activity for Rice County. County employees and service patrons provide support for Faribault businesses. The County is also a significant employer. In 2000, Rice County was the fifth largest employer in Faribault. These employees influence housing needs in Faribault.

State

State facilities have a significant presence in Faribault. The State's Correctional Facility

(formerly the Regional Treatment Center) is the fourth largest employer in Faribault. Faribault is home to the State Academies for the Blind and Deaf. Each of these facilities attracts visitors to Faribault. The State Academies also creates housing demand for families of students.

Schools

The quality and variety of educational opportunities are important parts of the community.

Faribault School District

The Faribault School District (ISD #656) operates five schools in Faribault: Faribault High School, Faribault Middle School, Roosevelt Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, and Jefferson Elementary School. In addition, the Area Learning Center and McKinley Early Childhood Center are located in Faribault.

The School District recently commissioned a study of demographics and future enrollments. The study report (Demographic Study and Enrollment Projections, October 2002, SchoolFinances.com) includes several findings related to the growth and development of Faribault. The following comments from the report emphasize the connections between the City and the School District.

- Housing development will occur in the Faribault School District; depending on the kind of homeowners (empty nesters, retirees or young families) enrollment may increase.
- The enrollment of the nonpublic schools in Faribault will remain stable with some growth.
- The enrollment of minority students while enriching the diversity in the district has also allowed the district to maintain more breadth in the curriculum that comes from enrollment.
- The enrollment projections for Faribault School District #656 are contingent in large part on the stability of business and industry within the school district. The district staff must find a way to stay current with the employment strategies of community businesses and industries. If this discovery points to a downturn in employment, the district should make reductions in the enrollment projections. A review on or about August 1st of each year would be prudent.

Other Schools

Other school in Faribault included private K-12 schools, state academies and post-secondary facilities including:

- South Central Technical College
- Bethlehem Academy School

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- The Covenant Academy School
 - Faribault Lutheran School
 - Minnesota State Academy for the Blind
 - Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf
 - Catholic Consolidated School
 - Stattuck-St. Mary's School
 - Parkside Seventh Day Adventists School

Community Services

Faribault has established a strong base of social, cultural and recreational facilities.

The Faribault Family Aquatic Center was built in 2002 in North Alexander Park. The Aquatic Center contains a wide variety of outdoor water recreation facilities including lap pool, zero-depth pool and water slides.

The Faribault Ice Arena is located at North Alexander Park. Faribault Schools and the Faribault Hockey Association are the primary users of this facility.

The Faribault Community Center is a multi-function facility. The Community Center contains an indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, fitness center, and meeting rooms. The Fitness Center provides exercise equipment, racquetball courts, and support facilities.

The Buckham Center is home to the Buckham Memorial Library, Faribault Parks and Recreation, Faribault Community Education and the Faribault Area Senior Center. The Buckham Center is a collaborative venture of the City, County, the School District and community organizations. This facility received Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund's 2001 Outstanding Collaboration Award and the League of Minnesota Cities 2001 City Achievement Award for Cooperation.

The Buckman Memorial Library serves Faribault and the surrounding communities. Rice County contributes about one-third of the Library's funding. The Library provides a wide range of community resources including books, periodicals, Internet terminals, genealogical resources, programming and meeting room space.

District One Hospital is operated by a hospital district covering eight townships and three cities, including Faribault. The hospital opened in 1960 and underwent a major renovation in 1998. District One Hospital contains forty-eight bed acute care beds and provides a wide range of medical and health care services.

Three medical clinics are located in Faribault. The Allina Medical Clinic-Faribault and the Cannon Valley Clinic-Mayo Health System are multi-specialty clinics. The Allina Clinic is in the process of relocating its facility to the Hospital campus. The Cannon Valley Clinic is currently located on the campus. Orthopaedic and Fracture Clinic (based in Mankato) operates on the District One campus.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services recognizes three licensed nursing homes in Faribault. These facilities provide a total of 308 beds of long-term care capacity.

The Minnesota Department of Health maintains a database of licensed, registered, or certified health care providers. Provider types in the State's databases include boarding care homes, home health agencies, home care providers, hospices, hospitals, housing with services, nursing homes and supervised living facilities and other non-long term care providers. The State's database lists 23 providers in Faribault.

Churches are an integral part of the community fabric. The formation of new congregations makes the number of churches a dynamic number. Faribault 2000 reported more than 50 churches serving Faribault and the surrounding communities. Some churches are located in residential areas and become a part of those neighborhoods. Church buildings contribute to the architectural and historical environment. Faribault churches have more than a physical presence. The churches provide educational and support programs for the community. Faribault churches are also a source of attraction, bringing people into the community.

Policies

The following policies are statements of intent related to community facilities in Faribault. These policies are intended guide decisions pertaining to construction, operation and maintenance of community facilities.

1. Provide a wide range of public service, social, cultural and recreational facilities designed to meet the needs of the community.
2. Provide access to services and facilities at a reasonably affordable cost to citizens and businesses.
3. Maintain a high quality education system that includes excellent public schools and a variety of other educational opportunities.
4. Seek to locate and retain County, State and other public facilities in Faribault to attract visitors to the community and to provide employment for Faribault residents.
5. Provide police, fire, and other public safety facilities required to serve all of the community.
6. Maintain attractive, functional and structurally sound community facilities as a means of preserving community heritage and identity.
7. Continue to create collaborative solutions for community facility needs.
8. Allow community facilities to locate within residential areas if the facilities do not negatively impact (with such factors as traffic and noise) the character of the neighborhood.

Initiatives

The process of preparing the Comprehensive Plan led to the following initiatives. These initiatives are action to be undertaken by the City of Faribault to achieve the policy objectives related to community facilities.

1. Planning for staffing and facilities should occur in conjunction with ongoing development management. Growth will influence the number of personnel and vehicles need to maintain an acceptable level of services. Staff and equipment shape facility needs. A proactive approach allows the City to explore solutions and find the most effective option.
2. Facility needs for police, fire and public works services need to be addressed. The City should undertake facilities planning required to understand needs and reach agreement on a course of action.
3. The City and the Faribault School District have many shared interests. An on-going dialogue about community growth, demographic changes, and facilities promotes positive outcomes for both parties.
4. Faribault has a strong record of providing excellent community facilities and services. Good financial planning will be needed to ensure the continued operation of these facilities in a manner that makes the facilities and services accessible and affordable.
5. County and State facilities are important parts of the local economy. Strong working relationships and on-going communications encourages successful operations and retention of these facilities in Faribault.